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The buri's top fronds are cut while the lower ones are left on the palm. On these lower stems a rude bamboo platform is built where the manangueto stands to collect guhang and people sit while drinking in the tree. (See Plate XXVIII.)[1] Usually a few fronds are used to make a roof over the buri's "eye" (mata or talobtob), shading both the "eye" and drinkers from the sun.

The pith on the exposed top of the trimmed buri is carefully cut away until the "eye" is exposed. The "eye" or "heart" is the inner part of the bole (parenchyma) where the sap flows. Cutting of the "eye", the manangueto warns, must be done with extreme care or the "eye" splits ruining the buri. After making a small exposure of the "eye" the manangueto usually waits for three days--some say a week--until the lihi is performed. One should wait until young sprouts begin to grow in the "eye." If the "eye" is too liberally trimmed before this time, the buri "leaks" at its base.

> The sap is obtained from the buri palm in two ways. Apparently the more usual way is to cut an inflorescence near its base...and collecting the sap which flows from the cut surface, in small earthen jars. The second method, used in Tayabas [Luzon] and some other provinces, but not known to a great many localities, is employed on trees which have not flowered and which may, indeed, be very far from maturity. The trees are stripped of leaves and then cut so that the heart of the tree is exposed. The surface thus exposed is cut and channeled, furnishing a clean tissue which is continually exposed to the air, but protected from the sun by a covering of thatch. In three or four days, sometimes one, the sap begins to flow steadily and rapidly...56

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56 Brown, op. cit., I, p. 296.

1 [See p. 378, cat. 245 or 116 -- Analyst]